

Message Text

SECRET

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11

ACTION ACDA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

AEC-05 CIAE-00 H-01 INR-05 IO-10 L-02 NSAE-00 OIC-02

OMB-01 PA-01 PM-03 PRS-01 SAJ-01 SAM-01 SP-02 SS-15

TRSE-00 RSC-01 NSC-05 AECE-00 /079 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6267

INFO SECDEF IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS IMMEDIATE

USDEL MBFR VIENNA IMMEDIATE

USNMR SHAPE IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T LONDON 15876

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR: INCLUSION OF AIR MANPOWER IN COMMON

CEILING: EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL

REF: STATE 265622

1. ON DECEMBER 4, WE MADE DEMARCHE AS INSTRUCTED REFTEL TO TICKELL OF FCO. WE LEFT COPY OF PARA 4 POINTS WITH HIM AND STRESSED IMPORTANCE OF EARLY APPROVAL OF U.S. PROPOSAL.

2. TICKELL ACKNOWLEDGED THAT UK HAS ACCEPTED PRINCIPLE OF PUTTING PROPOSAL TO INCLUDE AIR MANPOWER TO EASTERN SIDE BUT SAID HE WOULD HAVE TO CONSULT WITHIN HMG, SPECIFICALLY UK DEL VIENNA, BEFORE GIVING FORMAL REPLY ON TIMING. HE HAD FOLLOWING INITIAL REACTIONS:

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A) UK AGREES THAT IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PUT THIS

PROPOSAL TO EAST AT SOME TIME BUT UK DOES NOT ATTACH AS MUCH IMPORTANCE TO THIS AS DOES U.S.

B) HMG LEAVES TACTICS TO UK DEL MBFR AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE. ROSE HAS NOTED THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO EASTERN RESPONSE TO OUR OFFER TO INCLUDE AIR MANPOWER IN NO INCREASE FORMULA. HE QUESTIONS WHETHER WE SHOULD MAKE ANOTHER OFFER IN ABSENCE WARSAW PACT RESPONSE.

C) TICKELL DOES NOT FEEL WEST HAS LOST INITIATIVE AND DOUBTS THAT AIR MANPOWER ISSUE WOULD REGAIN INITIATIVE IF WE HAD LOST IT. WHILE AIR MANPOWER IS GOOD PRESENTATIONAL POINT, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR WESTERN PUBLICS AND PARLIAMENTS TO UNDERSTAND AND PROBABLY WOULD HAVE LITTLE IMPACT ON RUSSIANS.

3. MAIN POINT MADE BY TICKELL WAS THAT HE SAW INCONSISTENCY IN U.S. MOVES WHICH DEMONSTRATE FLEXIBILITY ON ISSUES OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE WHILE TAKING A RIGID LINE ON AN ISSUE WHICH SEEMS MORE IMPORTANT AT THE MOMENT, I.E., THE EASTERN FREEZE PROPOSAL. THINKING IN UK IS THAT BEST WAY FOR ALLIES TO SHOW MOVEMENT AND FLEXIBILITY IN MBFR AT MOMENT IS TO MAKE A GOOD COUNTER-PROPOSAL ON LATTER ISSUE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

4. TICKELL RECOGNIZES THAT IT WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR ALLIES TO AGREE ON A COUNTER-PROPOSAL BEFORE RECESS -- IT WOULD NOT EVEN BE POSSIBLE TO STAFF SUCH A DOCUMENT IN UK ITSELF. BUT ALLIES SHOULD SAY THEY ARE STUDYING PROPOSAL AND IF POSSIBLE DROP A HINT THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE POSITIVE REACTION SHORTLY AFTER MBFR RESUMES.

5. THIS WOULD, TICKELL SAID, BE A BETTER DEMONSTRATION TO ALLIED LEGISLATORS -- AND PUBLIC, IF STORY BREAKS -- THAT WESTERN POSITION IS FLEXIBLE. FURTHER, A SUCCESSFUL MBFR WOULD HAVE TO INCLUDE SOME SORT OF FREEZE TO ALLOW FOR EXCHANGE OF DATA AND PREPARATION FOR ACTUL REDUCTIONS. WHY NOT, HE ASKED, TRY TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BEFORE ACTUAL REDUCTIONS ARE AGREED IF IT IS POSSIBLE.

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6. WE STRESSED THAT OUR DEMARCHE WAS ABOUT AIR MANPOWER AND THAT OUR PROPOSAL WAS RESULT OF LONG AND CAREFUL STAFF WORK AND THUS COULD NOT BE COMPARED WITH WORK ON REACTION TO A PROPOSAL MADE ONE WEEK AGO BY EAST. WE ASKED THAT UK CONSIDER OUR CASE ON ITS MERITS AND STRESSED AGAIN REQUIREMENT FOR EARLY ACTION.

7. TICKELL PROMISED TO GIVE US FORMAL HMG REPLY AT EARLY

DATE.

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